



CHANUKAH



Gaelle Marcel, Unsplash

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jewish Federation Embarks on Strategic Plan for 2024
with Simansky Consulting

The Jewish Federation is proud to announce the initiation of its first strategic plan since 2009. Partnering with Simansky Consulting, the Jewish Federation is gearing up for a transformative journey to shape the future of the community.

This strategic plan is a significant milestone, symbolizing the Federation's commitment to fostering growth, unity, and resilience. With the guidance of Simansky Consulting, the Federation aims to chart a course that will address the evolving needs of the community, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future.

A key highlight of this endeavor is the formation of a diverse committee representing different areas of the state. Comprised of dedicated community members, this

Strategic Plan continued on page 16



CONGREGATIONS

JRF: Jewish Reconstructionist Federation **URJ:** Union for Reform Judaism
USCJ: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

Dena Glasgow (Rabbinic Intern)
5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 886-1633
www.betenu.org
Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum
39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(603) 869-5465
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
davegoldstone1@gmail.com
Services: Contact for Date/Time Info
President Dave Goldstone - (516) 592-1462
or Eileen Regen - (603) 823-7711
Weekly Services: July through Simchat
Torah Friday: 6:30 PM; Saturday: 10 AM

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

Rabbi Robin Nafshi
67 Broadway, Concord
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 228-8581
www.tbjconcord.org
office@tbjconcord.org
Services: Friday night - 7 PM
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Peter Levy
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM, Sat 9:30 AM
followed by Torah Study
Family Service Fridays 6:30 PM (2nd Fri of
Month)
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar
for optional Zoom link.

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

Rabbi Moshe Gray
19 Allen Street, Hanover
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 643-9821
www.dartmouthchabad.com
chabad@dartmouth.edu
Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services
and Dinner
Shabbat morning services
Call for times

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mark Melamut
Roth Center for Jewish Life
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover

Nondenominational, Unaffiliated
(603) 646-0460
www.uvjc.org
office@uvjc.org
Services: Friday night Shabbat service at
6 PM
Saturday morning Shabbat service at
10 AM

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org
office@keenesynagogue.org
Services: Regular Friday night services at
7 PM
Weekly Shabbat Torah study at 9:30AM.
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd
Saturday of each month at 9:30AM.
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the
4th Saturday of each month at 10:30AM.
All services are in-person and online.
Check the website for schedule changes
and Zoom links.

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Jan Katz
210 Court Street, Laconia
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 524-7044
www.tbinh.org
info@tbinh.org
Services: Every other Friday
night at 7:30 PM

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

Rabbi Levi Krinsky
1234 River Rd., Manchester
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 647-0204
www.Lubavitchnh.com
rabbi@lubavitchnh.com
Services: Shabbat Services
Saturday morning at 9:30 AM
Sunday morning minyan at 9 AM

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson
152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 669-5650
www.taynh.org
office@taynh.org
Services: Shabbat services the first Friday
of the month at 6 PM
All other Friday nights at 7 PM
with some exceptions.
Alternating Shabbat services or Torah
study Saturday mornings at 10 AM

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Marc Philippe
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org

Services: Fridays 6:00 PM (alternating
Fridays)
Saturdays 9:45 AM (alternating
Saturdays)
Morning Minyans: Wednesdays 7:00 AM
(Please check website or call office for
the days
in the month that weekend services are
being held.)

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
Conservative
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbijon@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services (generally):
Every Friday at 8:00 PM
Every Saturday at 10:00 AM
Evening minyan Sunday-Thursday
7:30 PM and at the end of Shabbat
Second Friday each month Shabbat Alive!
6:30 PM
Meditation every other Saturday 9:00 AM
All services on Zoom, most at the Temple
(check website)

NEWINGTON

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki
2299 Woodbury Avenue, Newington
Orthodox, Chabad
603-584-4111
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com
www.JewishSeacoast.com

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan Marlena Fuerstman
PO Box 474, Bartlett
(978) 853-4900
harlavancommunity@gmail.com
Services: Wed. mornings 9 AM online via
Zoom
Enter meeting ID https://zoom.
us/j/381930069
Holiday service times, locations TBA

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Kaya Stern-Kaufman
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 9:30 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed
M-F preschool.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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Kislev–Tevet–Shevat 5784

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The objectives of The New Hampshire
Jewish Reporter are to foster a sense of
community among the Jewish people of New
Hampshire by sharing ideas, information,
experiences and opinions, and to promote the
agencies, projects and mission of the Jewish
Federation of New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is
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by Nov. 10 or April 10, respectively.

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thereporter@jewishnh.org

To submit Calendar items for the print and
online JFNH Calendar and E-News, go
to <https://jewishnh.org/community-calendar>, click
the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in
the form with your event information.

Opinions presented in the paper do not
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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



December 1	3:54 PM
December 8	3:53 PM
December 15	3:54 PM
December 22	3:56 PM
December 29	4:01 PM
January 5	4:07 PM
January 12	4:15 PM
January 19	4:23 PM
January 26	4:32 PM

Two Kids, Some Oil, a Potato, and a Deadline

Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



By Dinah Berch, JFNH Program Coordinator; Kira Berch and Cayden Berch

“Chanukah oh Chanukah, come light the menorah. Let’s celebrate how the Maccabees didn’t snore-a. Gather round the table and eat delicious latkes; sour cream for grownups and don’t forget the apple sauce.” Queue my son declaring loudly that he just wants tacos.

If you can’t tell, my kids are helping to write this article. Actual conversation that happened at my dinner table: “What’s the meaning of Chanukah? What do you mean it’s not just about the presents? Okay, okay. To celebrate the Brave Maccabees from the Torah. Huh? They’re not in the Torah? But. Okay then, to celebrate the brave Maccabees who freed us from - wait – they didn’t free us, did they? Were we slaves at that point? Did they build the temple? What does it mean to rededicate? Wait – like cleaning my room? I DON’T WANT TO CLEAN MY ROOM!”

This is going well. But also, there’s a solid 75% chance I’d find a small jar of oil in my daughter’s room if we cleaned. I don’t know why. Have you seen her room? And yes, that’s a potato under my son’s pillow.

“Why did the latkes cross the road? To get to the other potato.” (I would have said to escape the frying pan, but hey – my joke-telling isn’t as sophisticated as first graders.) Now the kids are offering to co-write ALL my articles. You’ve been warned.

How do we as a family get ready for Chanukah? I’d love to say it’s something spiritual like the High Holidays, or very family oriented like Passover – but honestly, Chanukah at the Berches tends to be more low-key. We light the candles each night with prayers and a few songs. We make latkes at least once (and smell them for another two months). Each child chooses a charity for us to donate to. There are the obligatory sibling fights over who gets to light the candles (despite having a menorah per person). Both

Two Kids continued on page 10

What Does Tzedakah Mean?

Judith Jolton

**Campaign
Co-Chair**



To each of us, a mitzvah is any of the 613 Commandments that we, as Jews, are obligated to observe, and generally refer to as good deeds, but the mitzvah of *tzedakah* is one of the most important. It is a form of social justice in which the donors benefit from giving as much or more than the recipients.

Many Jewish families throughout the world have a *tzedakah* box or *pushke* in their homes in which they deposit coins for charity. But there are countless ways of giving *tzedakah* and it has become more complex throughout the years. I personally give *tzedakah* to enhance Jewish life, and strengthen our Jewish community

and federation, today and for the future.

“The word *federation* is used in the Jewish community to denote a central Jewish communal organization, which carries out the functions of recruiting and maintaining volunteers, collecting *tzedakah* dollars, coordinating budgets, setting priorities, allocating and interacting with other communal institutions.” (Raphael 1979, xiii)

Your generous support helps the Jewish Federation to provide:

- Programming, including the Jewish Film Festival, MOMentum, PJ Library, Seniors Forever Young, Schlischut, and more
- Social services to those in need in our state
- Grants to send youth to Jewish overnight camps and Israel
- Allocations to Hebrew Schools across the state
- Responses to antisemitism
- Local, national, and global giving

Tzedakah continued on page 5

Give to Strengthen a United Jewish New Hampshire.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Yes! Please Count Me In! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation to support the Campaign for a Proud and Vibrant Jewish New Hampshire.

You may also donate at www.jewishnh.org/give or by calling (603) 627-7679.

Sustaining Monthly Donation of:

- ☐ \$100 (\$1200/yr) ☐ \$50 (\$600/yr) ☐ \$36 (\$432/yr)
☐ \$18 (\$216/yr)

One-Time Gift of:

- ☐ \$2500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250
☐ \$100 ☐ \$72 ☐ \$54 ☐ \$36 ☐ \$18
☐ other \$ _____

3-Year Renewable Commitment of:

- ☐ \$5000/yr ☐ \$2500/yr ☐ \$1000/yr ☐ \$500/yr

☐ _____ will be matching this gift.
(employer's name)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email _____

☐ Check made payable to **Jewish Federation of NH**

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV Code _____ Signature _____

Please mail donations to: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 S. River Rd., Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110

Statewide Calendar of Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are submitted weeks in advance of publication, and are subject to change. For information on format changes, rescheduling, and so on, please contact the event's host.

To submit Calendar items for the print and online JFNH Calendar and E-News, go to <https://jewishnh.org/community-calendar>, click the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in the form with your event information.

Saturday, December 2

Upper Valley Jewish Community Brown Bag Lunch and Learn

12:30PM Roth Center for Jewish Life, Hanover
Melissa Herman will share information about the 2023 Project Preservation trip at a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn following Shabbat services at Kol Ha'Emek the Upper Valley Jewish Community. <http://www.uvjc.org>

Contact Roberta Berner at abelberner@gmail.com

PJOW Sufganiyot Showdown

5:30PM – 8:00PM, JFNH Community Room, Bedford
Cost \$8/individual or \$10/ Family (up to 5)
The Great Jewish New Hampshire Bake-off Presents: Sufganiyot Showdown!!! Do YOU have what it takes to be the next great Jewish baker? Compete in a series of Chanukah Donut decorating challenges to win fantastic prizes! We will have pizza and Havdalah.

This event is for PJ Our Way children aged 9-12. PJOW-ages children may be dropped off for the event. Family is also welcome to join for pizza and Havdalah, and them watch from our viewing area to cheer on your baker!

To register: bit.ly/sufganiyotshowdown

An Evening of Debbie Friedman Songs Performed by Arielle Kaplan

6:00PM – 8:00PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
Join Temple Beth Abraham for an evening of Debbie Friedman songs performed by Arielle Kaplan. Arielle Kaplan has been singing both theatrical and sacred music for most of her life. With a degree in musical theater from Brandeis University and having trained as a song leader beginning at URJ Eisner Camp in the Berkshires, these two styles of music have been constant parallels throughout her life. She has been a cantorial soloist since 2007, working with synagogues and Jewish communities all over New England adding music to their simchas. Her love of Jewish music and Broadway came together in 2020 and later, 2021 when she had the honor to originate the role of Miriam in the musical of the same name, written by Debbie Friedman, Dr. Alan Kaplan, and Tom Anastasi.

Appetizers and desserts begin at 6PM. The performance begins at 7PM.
Register at our website by Thursday November 30. The event is free, but a suggested donation of \$18 is appreciated.

<https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/a-performance-by-arielle-kaplan.html>

Sunday, December 3

Sisterhood Chanukah Shop

10:00AM – 1:00PM Temple Adath Yeshuran, Manchester
Temple Adath Yeshuran Chanukah Shop is open!

Temple Israel Kibbitz & Cooking

10:00AM – 12:00PM Temple Israel, Manchester

We will enjoy mimosas and "Jewishness" while we make hash browns potato latkes to be delivered with coffee to the Manchester Police Department with thanks for their service. Contact Aida Koocher at akoocher@comcast.net

Growing Antisemitism: To Fight it, we need to understand it.

1:00PM – 3:00PM, Private Home, Goffstown
Please join us for a moderated discussion of readings that can help us to understand the growing antisemitism on college campuses, in the streets of major cities and elsewhere. Readings will be provided in advance via email, along with (for the time challenged) executive summaries of the readings. Free event. Light refreshments will be served. The address will be sent to those registered. To register: <https://bit.ly/NHunderstands>

Sue Horowitz in Concert

4:00PM – 6:00PM Temple Beth Jacob, Concord
\$20/person, \$36/couple, Free/children under 18
Join us at Temple Beth Jacob for a fun and entertaining afternoon! This concert will be ASL interpreted by EJ Cohen. With a voice as warm as honey whiskey, and a vibe as confident as a tree with deep roots, Sue Horowitz writes songs about everyday struggles and joys and makes them meaningful and resonant. Her stories in song are poignant, heart-felt, hilarious, rousing, timely and timeless. With one foot planted firmly in the spiritual Jewish music world and the other in the singer-songwriter world, Sue has 15 years of national touring experience, from large festivals to congregations to intimate house concerts. This Ithaca, NY, and York Beach, ME artist has 5 albums of original music, and her latest album, "Strings. Wings and Curious Things", topped the Folk Radio Charts. Sue's sound is a blend of Americana and Folk, while also drawing influences from blues and classic rock, making each song unique. A musical event not to be missed! Please consider becoming a sponsor for \$100. Sponsorship comes with two premium seats and a CD signed by Sue. Contact TBJ office, office@tbjconcord.org or 603-228-8581 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Wednesday, December 6

Temple Israel Torah Study

6:30PM – 8:30PM Private Home
A weekly Torah study at Rabbi Marc Philippe's home. RSVP to rabbi.marc@yahoo.com or on ZOOM at: <https://zoom.us/j/96822287178?pwd=UzQwS3VWS3hCVkoyVGZYVDNSaXplZz09> Every Wednesday until December 27th

Thursday, December 7

Menorah Lighting at the State House 2023

3:30PM – 5:30PM, New Hampshire State House, Concord
Chabad Center for Jewish Living invites you to a Family Menorah Lighting! At State House Plaza, Concord, NH
In conjunction with PJ Library and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

Friday, December 8

Tot Shabbat and Hanukkah Candle Lighting with Rabba Kaya

3:45PM – 4:30PM Temple Israel Portsmouth
Join Temple Israel Portsmouth congregants and community members for a kid-friendly musical Shabbat and Hanukkah experience led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Geared for children aged 5 and under; all are welcome. Please register via the

temple website calendar. <http://www.templeisraelnh.org>

Etz Hayim Synagogue Menorah Lighting

5:30PM – 8:30PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Join us at Etz Hayim Synagogue as we commemorate the victory of the Maccabees. Etz Hayim Synagogue will be hosting a Second Night Chanukah menorah lighting, pizza dinner and Family Shabbat Service. Pizza dinner begins at 5:30PM (RSVP is required – email rabbi@etzhayim.org to reserve your space). At 6:30PM, we will light our giant outdoor menorah and sing Chanukah melodies led by Rabbi Levy and Amy. Indoor menorah lighting and family Shabbat Service follows at 7:15PM. BYO menorah and 3 candles as we brighten the winter night.

Saturday December 9

PJ Library Tot Shabbat Hop

10:00AM – 11:00PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
PJ Library's iBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 (siblings welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush. Registration requested. Please register via website calendar at jewishnh.org/community-calendar

Sunday, December 10

Shavua Tov Storytime 2023-2024

8:30AM – 9:30AM Zoom
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am.

Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family and receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Alane at alane.sabel@jewishnh.org. The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Please register via website calendar at jewishnh.org/community-calendar

Israeli Comfort Food Cooking Class & Brunch

10:00AM – 12:00PM Private Home, Durham
\$10/person
Join Shaliach Guy Ben David for a special Israel-themed cooking class followed by brunch. Together make falafel, Israeli salad, hummus, and pita, plus limonana and limonaraq. Then enjoy company and a good meal. Registration is limited, please register by December 3rd. Register at: <https://forms.gle/YL8Lqr6VTzZUNvKh7>

Temple Israel Braverman Chanukah Party

12:30PM – 3:15PM Temple Israel Manchester
Our annual party followed by lighting the Menorah. An RSVP is required by noon on December 1. Please use the link on our website <http://www.templeisraelmht.org> or call the office at 603-622-6171.

Temple Israel Portsmouth Latkepalooza Community Celebration

4:00PM – 6:00PM Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Join Temple Israel Portsmouth for a community-wide hanukkah lighting, crafts, music, dancing, and of course latkes and donuts! Bring your family's favorite hanukkah and nosh with us as we celebrate the festival of lights. Register via the temple website calendar: <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/community-hanukkah-celebration2.html>

Monday, December 11

JFNH Shaliach presents IsraelInsider

11:00am – 12:30PM JFNH Community Room, Bedford
The very successful Monday morning Shlichut program "Israel Report" is coming back, this time with a new name: "Israel Insider"! Join JFNH Shaliach Guy Ben David on the second Monday of each month to explore different Israeli topics. Email Shaliach Guy Ben David to sign up shaliach@jewishnh.org or call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679.

Tuesday, December 12

SFY Chanukah Party 2023

11:00AM – 1:00, JFNH Community Room, Bedford
Cost \$18/person
We'll enjoy Latkes with a full toppings bar – ketchup, sour cream, apple sauce, maple syrup..... Come celebrate and have some fun! To register, call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679.

Wednesday, December 13

Temple Israel Manchester Book Club on Zoom

4:30PM – 6:00PM Zoom
Temple Israel's book club will meet on Wednesday December 13 at 4:30pm by Zoom to discuss the book Into the Bright Sunshine by Sam Freedman. Those interested in participating are asked to email Ken Cohen at newbegin04@yahoo.com so that you can receive the Zoom link. The Book Club Committee is excited to announce that the Author, Samuel G. Freedman, will be joining our book club session to personally engage in conversation with us about his book.

Thursday December 14

Interfaith Candle-Lighting

5:30PM – 7:00PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Please join Temple Israel and members of Portsmouth Ministerium in the temple courtyard to light candles in the bronze "Hands of Hope" Menorah.
Jonny Pieffer and Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman will lead an interfaith group in prayer and song, followed by refreshments and Shmoozatorium.

Etz Hayim Synagogue hosts Elder Fraud Program

7:00PM – 8:00PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Elder Fraud, Special Agent, Kimberly V. Blackwood Federal Bureau of Investigation – Bedford Resident Agency. "A coordinated law enforcement action aimed at those who prey on senior citizens has resulted in charges against more than 250 subjects who collectively victimized more than one million mostly elderly Americans," an article said. She will talk about senior scams and how to prevent becoming a victim.

All programs are held at Etz Hayim Synagogue 1 ½ Hood Road, Derry NH. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, M.D. at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120

Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17

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Statewide Calendar of Events

Calendar

continued from page 4

Epic Shul-In at Temple Israel Portsmouth
5:00PM – 10:00AM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
\$20/person

The sun is down, and the fun is just beginning! Come for a night of games, movies, fun and friends...and then sleep over in the Temple! Open to children 9 years and older. Children under 11 picked up at 9:00PM. Registration required. Suggested donation \$20 per child. Price includes dinner, program, and breakfast. Questions? Contact Erik Martin, Head of School, education@templeisraelnh.org or 603-436-5301 x23

Sunday, December 17

JFNH Super Sunday 2023

10:00AM – 4:00PM

Super Sunday is Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's (JFNH) biggest one day fundraiser of the year!

Volunteers will be making phone calls to our Jewish community asking for support to our Annual Campaign.

Your generous support helps JFNH provide:

- Programming including Film Festival, Momentum, PJ Library, and more.
- Social Services to those in need around our state
- Grants to send your child to Jewish overnight camp and Israel.
- Allocations to Hebrew Schools across the state
- Response to antisemitism
- Local, national, and international giving

One day, one call where You can make a difference in Jewish NH. Please ANSWER THE CALL! Super Sunday is Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's (JFNH) biggest one day fundraiser of the year! Support the work of Jewish Federation of New Hampshire today! <https://www.jewishnh.org/donate>

Sunday and Monday, December 24 and 25

Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Mitzvah

9:00AM – 4:00PM

Temple Adath Yeshurun's Brotherhood will once again host the Holiday Mitzvah Program. Volunteers can choose from several different jobs, to fill in for our Christian neighbors so that they may enjoy their holidays; Serving meals to those who are hungry, meals on wheels delivery, covering the information desks at local hospitals, assisting with Bingo night at the Veterans Hospital, delivering food to our local police and fire stations and more! Volunteers are scheduled ahead of time for a specific task and shift. Please contact us for further information. Karen Rothstein 603-669-5650 <http://www.taynh.org> or office@taynh.org

Tuesday, December 26

Temple Adath Yeshurun Current Events Discussion Group

7:00PM – 8:15PM, Zoom

Join us on Zoom in meaningful conversation about current events. Sharing perspectives, facts, and information, we will learn together and consider our role and responsibility as reflected in our Jewish teachings and traditions. Non-Members are welcome.

Please RSVP to Marilyn Cavanaugh at wmcavanaugh@comcast.net or Pat Kalik at patkalik@comcast.net Zoom link and Topic will be sent out after RSVP.

Monday, January 1

Upper Valley Jewish Community New Year's Brunch

11:00AM – 1:00PM, Roth Center for Jewish Life, Hanover

Join us to celebrate the New Year with a special Brunch. RSVP through the UVJC office 603-646-0460 or office@uvjc.org

Monday, January 8

JFNH Shaliach presents Israel Insider

11:00AM – 12:30PM JFNH, Community Room, Bedford

The very successful Monday morning Shlichut program "Israel Report" is coming back, this time with a new name: "Israeli Insider"!

Join JFNH Shaliach Guy Ben David on the second Monday of each month to explore different Israeli topics. Email Shaliach Guy Ben David to sign up shaliach@jewishnh.org or call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679

Saturday, January 13

Tot Shabbat Hop

10:00AM – 11:00AM, Chabad Lubavitch of New Hampshire, Manchester

PJ Library's jBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 (siblings welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Bundle up and enjoy Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a kiddie Kiddush. Registration requested. Register on our website calendar.

Upper Valley Jewish Community Brown Bag Lunch and Learn

11:30AM – 1:30PM, Roth Center for Jewish Living, Hanover

Join Kol Ha'Emek, The Upper Valley Jewish Community, for a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn on "Jewish Superstitions" with Francine Weistrop. <http://www.uvjc.org> or Roberta Berner at abelberner@gmail.com

Sunday, January 14

Shavua Tov Storytime 2023-2024

8:30AM – 9:30AM, Zoom

A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. **Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am.**

Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family and receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Alane at alane.sabel@jewishnh.org. The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Register on our website calendar.

Monday, January 15

Temple Adath Yeshurun MLK Observance

1:00PM – 4:00PM, Memorial High School, Manchester

Temple Adath Yeshurun will Co-Sponsor the Annual MLK Observance at Memorial High School. "Communication Across Difference: Toward Beloved Community". Contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650, office@taynh.org or <http://www.taynh.org>

Thursday, January 18

NH Shaliach Guy Ben David Presents his Israeli Story

12:00PM – 1:30PM, JFNH Community Room, Bedford
\$8/person

Join us for a presentation by JFNH Shaliach Guy Ben David about his life, his Israeli story and what brings him to New Hampshire! Pizza and salad lunch provided. Zoom link available upon request. Register on our website calendar.

Sunday, January 21

Post Film Discussion of Golda

3:00PM – 4:30PM, Zoom

Together the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival and Israel Education and Engagement Committee will discuss the 2023 film Golda starring Helen Mirren. Viewers can watch the film on their own ahead of the discussion and then join us on Zoom as we discuss both the film and history of Golda Meir. This program will be through Zoom only. filmfest@jewishnh.org

Tuesday, January 23

Temple Adath Yeshurun Current Events Discussion Group

7:00PM – 8:15PM, Zoom

Join us on Zoom in meaningful conversation about current events. Sharing perspectives, facts, and information, we will learn together and consider our role and responsibility as reflected in our Jewish teachings and traditions. Non-members are welcome. Please RSVP to Marilyn Cavanaugh at wmcavanaugh@comcast.net or Pat Kalik at patkalik@comcast.net

Wednesday, January 24

Community Tu BiShvat Celebration Portsmouth

4:00PM – 6:00PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth

Please Join Temple Israel Portsmouth for a family-friendly celebration of the new year of the trees! Register via the temple website calendar: <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/tu-bishvat-program.html>

Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Tu B'Shevat Seder

5:30PM – 7:30PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun,

Manchester

Members free/non-members \$18 person
Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Tu B'Shevat Seder. RSVP due by January 14th. Please make checks payable to "TAY Sisterhood" 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, 03104

Saturday, January 27

Temple Israel Portsmouth Havdalah and Israeli Music Program

7:00PM – 8:00PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
NH Shaliach Guy Ben David will join Temple Israel Portsmouth to share and play Israeli music for us. Program sponsored by the Israel Affairs Committee.

Sunday, January 28

L'Dough V'Dough Community Storytelling and Breading Making Event

2:00PM – 4:00PM, Spotlight Room at The Palace Theatre, Manchester

Cost \$18/person

A community storytelling and bread-baking event. In this program, Holocaust survivors (and others with a personal connection to the Holocaust) are seated at tables with students, community members and other participants to share personal stories while braiding and baking challah bread together. The name for this event is a play on the Hebrew phrase "l'dor v'dor" which means "from generation to generation." Thus, L'Dough V'Dough programs are meant to cultivate deep relationships and forms of remembrance across generations. L'Dough V'Dough will be a fully in-person event with limited seating capacity. All participants will receive a small loaf of baked challah to bring home with them at the end of the event. Additionally, a light meal of soup and bread is included as part of the event.

This event is being organized by the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in partnership with Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

This event will be held at the Spotlight Room, The Palace Theatres 80 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH

holding our Super Sunday Campaign Drive on Sunday, December 17 between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. where volunteers will be making calls to the Jewish community asking for support to our Annual Campaign. We ask each of you to please make your pledge for this year. Please give from your heart. It is our responsibility, as Jews, to take care of each other.

Tzedakah

continued from page 3

None of this could happen without each of your participation in our Campaign. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire has an annual budget and is dependent upon each of you to make your yearly campaign donation for 2024. We will be



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The New Hampshire Jewish Museum Spotlights NH Jewish Contributions to Healthcare

On Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6 PM, the New Hampshire Jewish Museum (NHJM) located in the Jewish Federation of NH in Bedford, will open an exhibit entitled “NH Jewish Contributions to Healthcare, Past and Present.”

One of the great past physicians to be featured will be Dr. Selma (Deitch) Sigel. A recollection from Dr. Sol Rockenmacher of Dr. Deitch; “A legacy to remember, I first met Selma in the 1970’s, when I was in primary care pediatric practice in Dover ... for her fellow pediatricians, she was our Jiminy Cricket, our conscience in thinking about what was best for children. One of Selma’s most outstanding contributions was being one of the dynamic duo—with benefactor May Gruber, aka Pandora’s Pride—who



Dr. Selma (Deitch) Sigel, 1924-2004.

founded Manchester’s Child Health Services, a model of healthcare that enfolded children in a wonderful safety net of services and human compassion. The program began in 1979, providing pri-

mary care and related health services to low-income children and families in the Greater Manchester area. It was quite possibly the first functioning family-centered, comprehensive, and coordinated Medical Home in the entire USA. At the time of her death in 2004, Child Health Services was seeing more than 2,000 children from the Manchester area. She also helped found the Derryfield School in 1964. In 1987, she was the Manchester Union Leader’s Woman of the Year for New Hampshire, and in 1988 she was the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce’s Citizen of the Year. She was, indeed, a special person.”

The program on February 22 has two components. The first will be to chronicle and honor the amazing NH Jews

who made advances in healthcare, including the development of the measles vaccine and the creation of a child health program by Dr. Deitch. The second part will feature contemporary NH Jewish healthcare practitioners, teachers, administrators, and workers, speaking about their current innovations, procedures, and programs.

This is where we need your help. If you are or know someone Jewish in New Hampshire who is making healthcare better, please let us know. That person could be a medical doctor, dentist, researcher, teacher, first responder, social worker, nurse, administrator, or psychologist. Contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or call 603 895-6120. Thank you.



The Great Jewish New Hampshire Bake-Off Presents: Sufganiyot Showdown!!!

Do YOU have what it takes to be
the next great Jewish baker?

Compete in a series of Chanukah Donut
decorating challenges to win
fantastic prizes!

Saturday, December 2
5:30pm - 8pm
Pizza & Havdalah
\$8/individual or \$10/family
(up to five people).



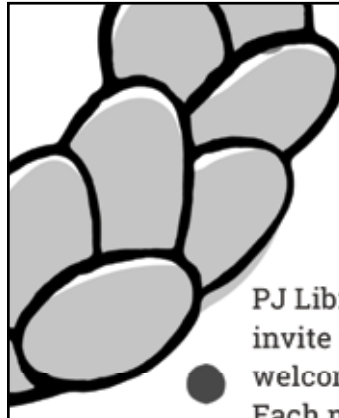
JFNH Office
273 South River Road, Unit 5, Bedford
This event is for PJ Our Way children aged 9-12 and PJOW-aged children may be dropped off for the event. Family are also welcome to join for pizza and Havdalah and then watch from our viewing area to cheer on your baker!

Scan QR Code to RSVP online.
Please register by 11/25



SPOTLIGHT
ON ISRAEL

Dinah Berch | 603-627-7679 ext 1002 | dinah.berch@jewishnh.org







TOT SHABBAT HOP!

PJ Library's jBaby and Early Education Initiative
invite families with children 0-5 (siblings
welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together.
Each month at a different location!


Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a
Kiddie Kiddush

Saturday, December 9th
10AM
Temple Adath Yeshurun,
Manchester
Registration Requested

Scan QR code or
<https://forms.gle/8QtUgeBmCe8AwBt9A>



Temple Adath Yeshurun
A Reform Congregation
Serving Greater Manchester, NH
Since 1891



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Finding Chanukah in Unsteady Times

I'll start December with a word about October and November. We all know what happened, and we all know what is going on the world right now. Times are crazy, but I'd like to focus on one specific thing – you.

You made me feel so safe, so calm, so happy during these horrible days. I could barely speak, and the time with the different people in this community made me feel so much better. Thank you for helping me forget all the horror. Thank you for listening and thank you for asking. I feel so grateful to be in a hugging community like this one.

December is the month of Chanukah – the month of light. But where is the light? Well, that's a question I tried to answer in my program last month, where I explained about the positive things that we can see in times like these. We saw the unity of Israel, the unity of people around the world, the support of leaders from all over the world and many other good things that this war brought. For thousands of years, we celebrate because others tried to destroy us in the past, just like

Guy Ben David

JFNH Shaliach



SPOTLIGHT
ON ISRAEL



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE | Israel Engagement and
Education Committee

in Chanukah. But that's exactly what makes us special – we celebrate. Celebrate life and not death. Life is the biggest gift we've been given, and it must continue, even after terrible disasters like the one on October 7th. We have Israel and that's the biggest miracle of them all, and Israel will stay strong because we will never lose our spirits.

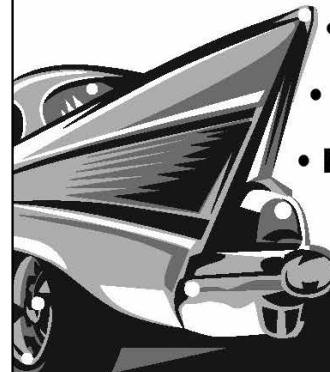
Chanukah is also usually celebrated very close to Christmas in America, and I believe that it has a very special reason: we're spreading light not only

to ourselves, but to the whole world. And we'll never stop that, even if we don't get it back. In physics, darkness is not a real thing, it's just the absence of

light. That's why it could never defeat it. Our light is stronger than anything.

Thank you and hopefully we will know better days soon.

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\$100,000 Minimum

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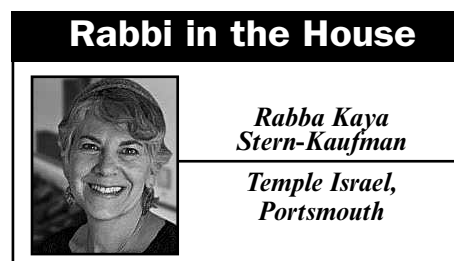
264 South River Road, Suite 414,
Bedford, NH 03110
www.investwithcohen.com

From Darkness to Light

In this month of Kislev, as we approach the festival of Chanukah amid a war for the future of Israel, we are struck by the echoes of history. Chanukah celebrates the spiritual victory of light over darkness and a military victory over a regime that sought to destroy our future as Jews. These days, as we turn to our sacred texts, our prayerbooks and our history, overlapping waves of meaning wash over us. As time itself seems to collapse, many of us are experiencing a profound disorientation along with the pain, fear, and grief of this moment.

Our history and the wisdom of our sages have much to teach us about reclaiming spiritual strength amid the ruins. We are survivors. Our people have not only survived, but flourished, despite the worst and most evil of human inventions across time.

There is a teaching in our Talmud (Makkot 24b) in which Rabbi Akiva and



his colleagues are walking amid the ruins of Jerusalem:

"When they reached Mount Scopus [from which it is possible to see the Temple Mount], they tore their clothing. When they arrived at the Temple Mount, they saw a fox running out of the area where the Holy of Holies had been. They began to cry, while R. Akiva laughed. They said to him (R. Akiva), 'Why are you laughing?'.... He replied, 'Isaiah the Prophet said, 'I will bring two reliable witnesses regarding my people, Uriah the Priest and Zecharia

ben Yeverchyahu.'" (Isaiah 8:2)... the verse in Isaiah makes Zecharia's prophecy dependent on Uriah's. In Uriah's case, it is written, "Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed under like a field." (Michah 3:12) In the case of Zecharia, we find, "Yet again, elderly men and elderly women will sit in the streets of Jerusalem.... Now that I have seen Uriah's prophecy fulfilled in full detail, I know that Zecharia's prophecy will also be fulfilled." Hearing that, R. Akiva's colleagues said to him, "Akiva, you have comforted us. Akiva, you have comforted us."

In view of the destruction of the holiest place on earth, the abode of God, Rabbi Akiva adjusts his vision to see beyond the present moment. He sees the past, acknowledges the destruction, hears the echo of the Prophets, and he sees a new future of restoration, of healing and peace.

In the tradition of Jewish mysticism, each month conveys a particular essence, a unique quality that is accessible to us at that time of year. This month of Kislev is associated with the quality of **vision**. As we light our *chanukiot*, we are invited to orient ourselves toward the growing light amid the darkness. We are invited to move out of despair, and like Rabbi Akiva, deepen our capacity to envision a future of restoration, healing, and peace.

Kislev is also considered the month of miracles; a time in which the light we kindle and the visions we dream can transform the present reality. It is a time when we read the story of Joseph the dreamer. Through his capacity for vision and his ability to see beyond limitations, Joseph transforms a regional disaster into a manageable new structure that sustains all the people of the region. Ultimately, Joseph's actions bring about a true healing and long-needed redemption between himself and his brothers.

We have learned through our long history that miracles and transformation are possible, but that they occur through the agents of humankind. This month, let us expand our vision, if only a bit, from despair to hope, from the limitations of fear to the open field of possibilities, from darkness to light.

A gift from the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Sign up your children ages 6 months through 11 years old and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and resources delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and culture through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions, and heritage.

Through the program your family will be enriched by experiencing the joys of Jewish life.

Funded by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, it's a gift that will nourish a Jewish life from the start.

**SIGN
UP**

Ages 6 mos. through 8
pjlibrary.org

Ages 9 through 11
pjjourway.org

Harold Grinspoon
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jewishnh.org



Dr. Steven Bachner, Board member of Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, has made "edible Torahs" for several special events over the past year. This was for a family service held in late October.



Shavua Tov Story Time

A program for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Register once for \$18.00 to receive monthly crafts in the mail for the year! The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Scan QR code to register or go to <https://forms.gle/2zRdv4Zo7ddwLbA5A>.



September

10

Theme: Rosh Hashanah



February

11

Theme: Mitzvot



October

15

Theme: Sukkot



March

17

Theme: Purim



November

19

Theme: Shabbat



April

14

Theme: Passover



December

10

Theme: Chanukah



May

19

Theme: Lag B'Omer

January

14

Theme: Tu B'Shevat



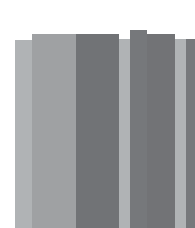
June

9

Theme: Shavuot



No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



Jewish Federation
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Visit <https://forms.gle/2zRdv4Zo7ddwLbA5A> to register or email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Honors Andrea Meyer

At a recent Shabbat service, Etz Hayim Synagogue celebrated Andrea Meyer as its JFNH Shem Tov Award winner for her passionate commitment to the well-being of its community. It was a special evening as family and congregants expressed their love and admiration for Andrea.

Andrea and her family have been members of Etz Hayim since 2010, at which time Andrea quickly became devoted to her sons' religious education by getting involved as a Class Parent and proud Lobby Lady, instilling in them a love of their religion. Jack and David memorialized their deep bond with the Temple and congregation by creating two custom plasma cutouts of our logo which proudly hang in our vestibule today. More recently, David completely renovated the Temple library as his Eagle Scout project, and his Court of Honor was celebrated at Etz Hayim in March of this year.

A former human resources director, Andrea reinvented herself as the boys got old-

er, returning to school to earn her teaching certificate; she is currently a technology teacher at the David R. Crawley Middle School in Hooksett. Etz Hayim has been very fortunate to be the beneficiary of her many skills and talents, with Andrea playing a key role in prior rabbi searches, contract renewals, hiring of teachers and our Education Administrator, and as current Chair of the Rabbi Search Committee.

Andrea began serving as an Etz Hayim Director in 2018, then accepted the position of Secretary in 2020, expressing her wish to join the executive team to play a more direct role in leading the temple. Her organizational skills and drive continue to make her an invaluable partner to the President, Vice President and Treasurer, documenting motions and discussions, clarifying inconsistencies, and imparting important historic perspective. Andrea also assumed responsibility in 2020 for managing the synagogue's online calendar, and took the lead in revis-

ing our Education, B'Nai Mitzvah and Building Usage policies.

Andrea is an outspoken advocate and cheerleader for all things beneficial to Etz Hayim Synagogue. Her take-charge atti-

tude, keen judgment, and her enthusiasm make Andrea a tremendous asset to the board and congregation.

Andrea and her husband Jeff live in Epping with their sons, Jack and David.



GROWING ANTISEMITISM: TO FIGHT IT, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IT.

A moderated discussion of readings that can help us to understand the growing antisemitism on college campuses, in the streets of major cities and elsewhere. Readings will be provided in advance via email, along with (for the time challenged) executive summaries of the readings. Free event. Light refreshments will be served.

SUNDAY

📅 DECEMBER 3, 2023

🕒 1PM - 3PM

📍 PRIVATE HOME,
GOFFSTOWN
Register for address



Scan QR
to register or visit:
[https://bit.ly/
NHunderstands](https://bit.ly/NHunderstands)

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Antisemitism & Diversity Committee and Israel Education & Engagement Committee. Contact info@jewishnh.org with questions.



Two Kids

continued from page 3

kids will bring plastic dreidels to give out to their class, with little printouts of how to play (thanks PJ Library Hanukkah Hub! See QR). We see friends at the mall candle lighting, or ice skating, or synagogue lightings, or any of the other community events. Every year I aspire to put up a big pool noodle menorah on our hedges – one day it'll happen. And we make and gift awesome jelly-filled donut muffins that are easy for kids, freeze well and mail well.

I have a weakness for Chanukah clothing. Dreidelbot shirts. Chanukah cat leggings. Ugly Chanukah sweaters. The Chanukah Llamukah. (Why is this a thing?). Chanukah matching pajamas. I love a good Chanukah Dinosaurs Menorah on a shirt. Particularly if it glows in the dark. Found anything good? Share a pic on our Facebook Group JFNH Family Connection!

Now for the annual Berch Family Recommendations for what to watch, listen to and read. Here goes: "SHABOOM!" - The YouTube show is awesome and has a great Chanukah special. Cayden loves *Blues Clues and You: a Blues Clues Festival of Lights* (Season 3 Episode 3) or the *Firebuds Hanukkah Hullabaloo* (Season 1 Episode 13). *Elena of Avalor* has a really

cute Chanukah episode also (season 3, episode 18).

For reading in class: PJ Library book *Meet the Latkes* by Alan Silberberg is hilarious. And a new favorite this year, *Hanukkah in Little Havana* by Julia Anna Blank. For older readers: my daughter recommends *Best Kids Hanukkah Jokes Ever from Highlights* (warning: SOOOO punny), *A Dreidel in Time* by Marcia Berneger or graphic novel *Shield of the Maccabees* by Eric A. Kimmel and Dov Smiley. There's even an interview with the authors on the PJ Our Way website!

PJ Library's podcast "Have I Got a Story For You" has a bonus episode with the story of Chanukah and both PJ Library podcasts "Beyond the Bookcase" (our fav) and "Afternoons with Mimi" have special Hanukkah playlists of stories! These are excellent for long car rides.

I adore six13's "Bohemian Chanukah" or "A Hamilton Chanukah" and The Maccabees' "All About That Neis" for parody songs on YouTube. If you've found any new ones that you love, send them my way!

How will your family be celebrating Chanukah this year? Hot Tip – PJ Library books make great gifts! Hopefully we'll see you at an upcoming event. Come over to the PJ Library table at the Menorah Lighting at the New Hampshire State House in Concord on December 7th, and say hi. Seniors: don't miss the SFY Chanukah Party on December 12th! Happy Chanukah!

Together in Action: 2023 TAY Sisterhood Membership Dinner

Monday evening, October 14, 2023, saw a wonderful gathering of more than 40 attendees to the annual Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Membership Dinner (membership in the Sisterhood is open to any woman with some connection to the Jewish community). Co-President Gail Ellis opened the meeting to welcome the attendees. Rabbi Beth Davidson said a prayer for our sisters and brothers who are fighting off the terror attacks in Israel, and then led all in reciting the Motzi for the upcoming meal.

For the last 12 years, the meetings have had a theme related to the history of Jews in various countries throughout the world, with the meal based on the cuisine of that country. Linda Rockenmacher once again led the effort, with Ethiopian Jewry the focus of this year's event. She had the sup-

port of many sisters, who helped with shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning up.

The (very tasty and unique) Ethiopian-based meal led off with timatim (tomato salad) and included injera (Ethiopian bread), doro wat (chicken stew), misir wat (spicy lentil stew), and gomen (greens). Co-President Linda Rockenmacher then presented this year's Woman of the Year award. The well-deserving winner was Gail Ellis, who was surrounded in close support by past awardees.



Gail Ellis opens the program.



Sisterhood Kitchen Krew at work.



Past winners of Woman of the Year Award join Linda Rockenmacher in presentation of this year's award to Gail Ellis.

Linda then gave a very interesting presentation on the distinctive and fascinating history of Ethiopian Jewry, from ancient days to the present time, including their migration to Israel. There are now 172,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel, with a significant percentage of both young men and young women of that heritage

who have stepped up to serve in the IDF.

Thank you, David Rosenzweig, for your technical support. And all in all, a delightful evening with a warm and welcome and supportive gathering of friends, clearly needed in these very troubling times. Hoping for much better days ahead: Ken Yehi Ratzon.

Temple Israel Portsmouth: Siyyum – Life Cycle of Sacred Texts

By Dr. Melvin Prostko, Holocaust Torah Scroll Committee Chair at Temple Israel Portsmouth

On October 25th at Temple Israel Portsmouth, the Hebrew School and congregation held a *siyyum* ceremony to celebrate the successful repair and return of Holocaust Torah Scroll MST #486 (an orphan scroll). The event was very successful, poignant, and meaningful.

Since March 25, 2015, Temple Israel has housed one of the Memorial Scrolls Trust's Torah scrolls on permanent loan. This special Torah has been used for the celebration of all life-cycle events, events that affirm the continuity of the Jewish people. These events include the High Holidays, baby namings, b'nei mitzvah, and *aufrufs* (the calling of a bride and groom for an aliyah prior to their wedding).

The Czech scrolls, including MST #486, are survivors and silent witnesses. They represent not only the lost communities of Bohemia and Moravia where they originated, but all the communities who perished in the Shoah. Recently, our scroll needed some restorative repairs, which were completed over the summer by Rabbi Kevin Hale, Sofer STaM, a traditionally trained Torah scribe.

Over 40 Hebrew School students and their teachers attended the two educational sessions held by Rabbi Hale, after which about 45 congregants participated in the *siyyum* ceremony. Rabbi Hale tailored his presentations, engaging the students by demonstrating the materials and methods used by scribes to write a

Torah and providing other detail to the adults. He was clearly effective, evoking much inquisitiveness among the Hebrew School students, and spirit and interest among all the adults. Greetings were read from Jeffrey Ohrenstein, Trustee/Chairman of the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London. Everyone present contributed, either by coming up and reciting a *kavanah* (intention) to empower Rabbi Hale to fill in a letter on their behalf, or by participating in a group aliyah. Rabba Kaya was given the honor of filling in the final letter herself. After the ink on all the completed letters dried, the Torah was declared kosher by Rabba Kaya. After the group aliyah, the Torah was carried from the Social Hall to the Aron (Ark) in the sanctuary, with a procession of joyful followers. The event was a moving experience for all who came. Thanks are due to the organizing committee and all those involved in arranging and funding the repairs that provided the cause for the celebration.

The Memorial Scrolls Trust has recently published a book detailing how the collection of scrolls came to London and were distributed from there to Jewish congregations throughout the world, who make a commitment to honor the scrolls' communities of origin. Copies of the book, *1564 Scrolls: A Legacy of Jewish Life in Bohemia and Moravia*, are available for purchase, \$36.00 each. Please contact the Temple Israel office to order. Proceeds benefit the Holocaust Torah Fund, which helps fund the congregation's care for this precious Torah scroll.



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In the Community



Derry Interfaith Clergy Council at MacGregor Park, on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, for Pray for Peace in Israel.



At Etz Hayim after Friday night service on October 27, 2023, standing left to right: Stephen Soreff, Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien (holding the letter), David Love, John Potucek, and Rabbi Peter Levy. Seated is Erica Layon.

The Derry Community Supports Israel

By Steve Soreff, MD

In these challenging times, with Israel at war, the greater Derry community has supported Israel in several ways. First, individuals have dropped by Etz Hayim Synagogue to offer their concerns and prayers for Israel. Second, the area faith clergy reached out to Etz Hayim Rabbi Peter Levy, resulting in an emotional in-

terfaith expression of solidarity with the people of Israel by the Derry Interfaith Clergy Council and beyond on Wednesday, October 18 at MacGregor Park. The evening was an interfaith expression of solidarity with the people of Israel. The group offered prayers and songs in hope that someday soon peace will reign again.

Third, four members of the Derry delegation to the New Hampshire House

of Representatives joined Etz Haim Synagogue for Friday night Shabbat Services: Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien, David Love, John Potucek, and Erica Layon. They presented and read to the congregation a letter from the Derry Delegation, Rockingham District 13 on the State of New Hampshire, House of Representatives Concord stationery dated October 27, 2023. It was

signed by all 10 of Derry's members of the NH House of Representatives.

Representative Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien read the letter: "The New Hampshire House of Representatives adamantly rejects antisemitism, hate, and terrorism. These acts of violence and senseless killings taking place in Israel are beyond the horrors of any nightmare imagined, and we want to make absolutely clear that Israel has the right to defend itself and protect the innocent from the horrible destruction and violence brought on by Hamas. Today, on behalf of my colleagues from Derry, I affirm our support for Israel and our Jewish community. I pray that humanity wins and that we can all live in peace with one another. In support, Derry Delegation, Rockingham District 13 New Hampshire, House of Representatives."



January 18, 2024, 12:00pm

Lunch & Learn: "Guy's Israeli Story"

Join us for a presentation by JFNH Shaliach Guy Ben David about his life, his Israeli story, and what brings him to New Hampshire!

Pizza and salad lunch provided.

In person at:
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
273 South River Road, Unit 5
Bedford, NH 03110
\$8/person. Registration requested.
Zoom link available upon request.

To register please scan the QR code below to pay online, call 603-627-7679 to pay by credit card over the phone, or mail payment to:



JFNH
273 S. River Rd. #5
Bedford, NH 03110





Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund, The Paul and Fran Gordon Fund and The Singer Family Trust Fund

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Temple Adath Yeshurun Social Action: Webster House

By Nancy Frankel

The mission of the Temple Adath Yeshurun Social Action Committee is to research community organizations and agencies, and to assist them as we are able with in-kind contributions on behalf of our temple.

The first project this fall was to continue our established relationship with Webster House by providing products requested for their current residents, such as toiletries, laundry baskets, linens and personal care products. Webster House is a homecare facility established in the late 1800s that looks after children ages 8 to 21 when their parents become unable to do so. It allows the children to continue their education, teaches them life skills, provides counseling, and enables healthy relationships in a familial setting.



Meanwhile, our annual Adopt-a-School effort is beginning. McDonough School has been contacted to determine their greatest needs for 2024.

The TAY Social Action Committee welcomes ideas for new projects and collaboration with outreach groups in other synagogues. Contact Nancy Frankel, Chair: corkysmagic@gmail.com.

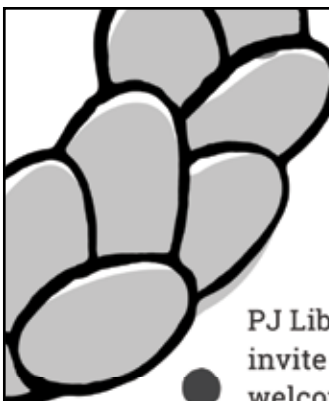
Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Chanukah Events

On Friday, December 8, Etz Hayim Synagogue will be hosting a Second Night Chanukah menorah lighting, pizza dinner and Family Shabbat Service. Pizza dinner begins at 5:30 (**RSVP is required** - email Rabbi@etzhayim.org to reserve your space). At 6:30, we will light our giant outdoor menorah and sing Chanukah melodies led by Rabbi Levy and Amy. Indoor menorah lighting and Family Shabbat service follows at 7:15. BYO menorah and three candles as we brighten the winter night.

Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1.5 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org, or call 603-432-0004.



See what's happening in the community at
www.jewishnh.org




TOT SHABBAT HOP!




PJ Library's jBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 (siblings welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Each month at a different location!

Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush

Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 10AM
Chabad of New Hampshire,
Manchester

Registration Requested
Scan QR code or
<https://forms.gle/5xja7ejgAfbrcyeW9>









WITH
GUY BEN
DAVID

ISRAELI COMFORT FOOD BRUNCH

Join Shaliach Guy Ben David for a special Israel-themed cooking class followed by brunch! Together make falafel, Israeli salad, hummus and pita - plus limonana and limonara! Then enjoy company and a good meal.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2023, 10AM
HOME-HOSTED, DURHAM, NH
\$10/PERSON.



Register by scanning QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/YLELqr6VTzZUNvKh7>
Address sent to Registered Guests. Please register by December 3rd.
Questions? Email Guy at shaliach@jewishnh.org



In the Community

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia We Care Concert Raises Funds for Interlakes Community Caregivers

Laconia, NH – On Monday, November 6, 2023, representatives of We Care of Temple B'nai Israel presented the Interlakes Community Caregivers with the proceeds from their recent sold-out fundraising concert. The event was held on October 28, 2023, and featured The Jersey Tenors, in a much-anticipated return engagement to the Lakes Region. A note of thanks from Pam Joyal, Executive Director of Interlakes Community Caregivers, expressed their appreciation to We Care:

"Temple B'nai Israel has long been an integral part of the Laconia community, providing spiritual guidance, cultural enrichment, and a warm, inclusive environment for all. However, their recent philanthropic endeavors have enabled them to extend their reach even further, making a significant impact not only within their congregation but also within the wider community. Countless individuals and organizations came together to support our cause and fuel our efforts. The level of enthusiasm and generosity displayed by the

attendees was nothing short of awe-inspiring. The \$23,295 that was raised is no small feat, and the ripple effects of this achievement will be felt far and wide. These funds will undoubtedly bring positive change and uplift the lives of those in need for years to come.

It is a tremendous act of kindness and compassion that must be acknowledged and celebrated. Beyond the financial contributions, the importance of community partnerships and collaboration cannot be overstated. ICCI staff, Board of Directors and Volunteers thank Temple B'nai Israel for their volunteer service and helping us celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year!"

The evening's proceeds was a result of ticket sales and the support of businesses who sponsored the event including Audi Nashua, Interlakes Family Dental, Miracle Farms Landscaping, Comfort Keepers, Electrical Installations, McCarthy Lawn and Landscape, The Platinum Group at Re/Max Bayside, Ippolito's Furniture, Northway Bank, Taylor Community, The Moultonborough Lions



Pictured are We Care's Stu Needleman, Committee Chair and Barbara Katz, Marketing Chair. Interlakes Community Caregivers representatives are Pam Joyal, previous Executive Director, Chris Kelly, Board President, Dyan Lowman, Board Secretary, Kathryn Holt, Executive Director, Amy Blongy, Lead Coordinator, and George Jewell, Board Treasurer.

Club, Break Away Rentals, Circle Dental, E.M. Heath Market, Moulton Farm, Overhead Door Options, Re/Max Bayside, and Winsor Homes. The partnership between We Care, Interlakes Com-

munity Caregivers, and these outstanding community minded businesses will help to support the ongoing commitment of the Interlakes Community Caregivers to the population they serve.



Happy Chanukah!

May the lights of Chanukah bring you,
your family, and all families
Good Health, Peace, and Happiness
throughout the year to come.

Chris and Valerie Sununu



Paid for by Friends of Chris Sununu • Paul Collins, Treasurer



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Seniors Forever Young

SFY Chanukah Party

Tuesday, December 12th

11:00am

Please join JFNH's "Seniors Forever Young" at the JFNH office in Bedford for a special Chanukah party including games, soup, sandwiches and of course, latkes!

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

273 South River Road, Unit #5
Bedford, NH 03110

Registration Required by December 5th.

Call 603-627-7679 to pay by credit card, scan QR code to register online or mail payment to:



JFNH
Attention: SFY
273 S. River Rd. #5
Bedford, NH 03110

\$18/person | In-Person Only | Catered Lunch



Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund, The Paul and Fran Gordon Fund and The Singer Family Trust Fund

In the Community

Strategic Plan

continued from page 1

committee brings a wealth of perspectives and experiences to the table, ensuring that the strategic plan is inclusive and reflective of the entire community. The committee's formation underscores the Federation's dedication to a collaborative and community-driven approach. By in-

cluding representatives from various regions, the strategic plan aims to cater to the unique challenges and opportunities present in different areas, fostering a sense of belonging and representation for all members.

The strategic planning process will involve a thorough assessment of current strengths, challenges, and opportunities within the Jewish community. Through

surveys, focus groups, targeted interviews, and data analysis, the committee and Simansky Consulting will work together to develop a comprehensive roadmap that aligns with the values and aspirations of the community.

The Jewish Federation encourages all members to participate actively in this exciting initiative. Community input will be integral to shaping the strategic plan, ensuring that it resonates with the diverse

voices and perspectives that make up the Jewish community.

As we embark on this journey towards a vibrant future, the Jewish Federation looks forward to the collective efforts of the community, guided by Simansky Consulting's expertise, to build a strategic plan that will propel us into a new era of growth, resilience, and unity. Together, we can create a future that reflects the strength and richness of our community.



CHABAD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MARTIGNETTI PRESENTS...

ב"ה

CHANUKAH

at the palace

FEATURING THE ASTOUNDING

UV CIRCUS SHOW

WITH INCREDIBLE VENTRILOQUIST

JACK WILLIAMS

AND CHANUKAH MUSICAL INTERLUDE!



IT'S A NEW HAMPSHIRE TRADITION!
6PM • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023
6TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
THE PALACE THEATRE



TICKETS: 13 YEARS AND UP \$18, 4-12 \$12, 3 AND UNDER ARE FREE

CALL FOR TICKETS: **603.668.5588**

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia Remembers Kristallnacht

Laconia, NH – On Thursday, November 9, 2023, the Lakes Region community gathered on the steps outside of Temple B'nai Israel to commemorate Kristallnacht, “The night of Broken Glass.” This is the third consecutive year that this event has been held and the first snowfall of the season did not deter people to remember the victims, denounce hatred, and stand in witness to the atrocities of the Nazi regime. NHPR reporter Olivia Richardson referred to the event as “an evening of warmth, support, and remembrance.”

TBI member Lois Kessin planned the event inviting local dignitaries and clergy to speak. Most notably, Congressman Chris Pappas and Rabbi Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord. Local dignitaries included Brian Beihl, host and producer of the American Democracy Minute Radio Report, Retired Judge Jim Carroll, Rev. Judith Wright of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, Pastor Campbell Lovett of the Congregational Church of Laconia, Steve Tucker, Superintendent of the Laconia School District, David Stamps, Chair of the Laconia Human Relations Committee, and Ira Keltz, President of Temple B'nai Israel,

standing in for Rabbi Jan Katz who could not be in attendance. TBI Member John McArthur led the attendees in singing Hine Ma Tov and Oseh Shalom.

Kristallnacht was described as “Germany’s most bloody assault on Jews since the Middle Ages,” according to Rabbi Jan Katz. This year marks the 85th anniversary of this tragedy that was the beginning of the Nazi’s all-out persecution and slaughter of the Jews of Europe. The State of Israel was born of the tragedy of the Holocaust. Today we are faced with an unimagined attack on Israel by Hamas which has spurred global antisemitism to heights not seen since World War II. It was hard not to connect the two events and the global reaction. “Jewish communities everywhere are hurting deeply because of the lingering trauma of the Holocaust, because of the rise of antisemitism, because of the unimaginable suffering of our brothers and sisters in Israel, and because of the suffering of the Palestinian people. Yet, here in Laconia and the Lakes Region, we know we are not alone. You are with us, and you show us the power of empathy,” as stated by Rabbi Katz.

Brian Biehl offered his personal recol-



lection of visiting Nuremberg in 2015. “As we walked through the streets, we began to see small brass squares embedded as small cobblestones into the pavement. Each of them is inscribed with, “Here Lived,” followed by names, the address, and a short phrase in German which described the fate of those people: Internment, suicide, exile or, in most



cases, deportation and murder.” He continued, “They’re called Stolpersteine, or “Stumbling Stones,” and are now installed in 1,200 cities and towns across Europe and Russia. This project began in 1992, and as of June 2023, 100,000 Stumbling Stones have been installed. It’s the largest decentralized memorial in the world.” Upon conclusion Biehl offered this important message, “We must SHATTER silence by speaking out. We must SHATTER complacency with action. We must SHATTER authoritarianism by voting. We must SHATTER violence with peace. We must SHATTER hate with Love.”

Happy Hanukkah!

*May you and your family
be blessed with joy, good
health, and peace.*

– Senator Maggie Hassan



In the Community

Join Us for the TAY Chanukah Candle Drive — & More!

By Mark Granoff, TAY Brotherhood President

These are difficult days for the House of Israel. We continue to pray for Israel, her people, and all our loved ones affected by the tragedy of October 7th. I want to thank all those who responded to our TAY Brotherhood call for support for the **NH Supplies for Israel Drive** a few weeks ago. With your help and our Brotherhood challenge, over \$2,000 was donated along with many articles of clothing, health products and other supplies. Our contributions matter.



On a lighter note, the October 15th Brotherhood Concert and Scottish Desert event was a pleasant diversion from the reality of the news cycle. Thank you to the 30 or so attendees and another dozen volunteers that enjoyed the homecooked Scottish pastries provided by Gail Ellis and Marsha Paiste. I will always remember the dundee cake, Marsha! Thank you both for making this such a successful and yummy event. The joyful entertainment provided by the Manchester Community Theater Players was a true pleasure as they treated us to a sampling of their production of "Brigadoon." Thanks to event Chair Denis Paiste, and MCTP leaders and Brothers Alan Kaplan and Steve Short for making this event happen.

On November 8th, Brotherhood members met at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery to place flags at the graves of all veterans from both TI and TAY. It is an honor, and a history lesson when you see the markers for so many WW1 and WW2 veterans, my father Irving included along with so many of his Manchester friends. Thanks to David Rosenzweig for leading this effort. Thanks to the others who joined us: Ed Schoen, Denis Paiste, Bob Katchen, Al Halpern, Mark Bilech, and Marty Warshaw.

Next up is one of our key annual fundraisers, the TAY Chanukah Candle Drive. Once again, we honor the memory of our beloved Brother Bud Baron, who worked tirelessly on this program for many years. With Chanukah so early this year, the first night is December 7th, we will be working in early November to get our mailers out so we can get the deliveries out in time! Proceeds are used to help important programs like: The TAY Social Action Committee so we can care for our community, or The House Committee to help care for





HAPPY HANUKKAH

The TAY Brotherhood is happy to announce our TAY Hanukkah Party 5784!

December 10th 11AM to 12:30PM in the TAY Social Hall

Join us for a magic show by "Kugel the Klown" at 11am

- Latkes and the fixings by the TAY Brotherhood Kitchen Krew at noon time
- Take home Hanukkah Gift bags by TAY Sisterhood
- Open to our TAY Community, Families and friends
- RSVP's to the TAY Office required! Call 603-669-5650

TAY's physical structure.

On December 10th the TAY Brotherhood will be hosting the TAY Chanukah Party 5784 at 11 A.M. in the TAY Social Hall. This is open to the greater TAY Community, Families and Friends. Thanks to the TAY Sisterhood for your support! Please RSVP to the Temple Office as noted below. Thanks to Nancy Frankel for bringing back Kugel the Klown once again! Brotherhood will be making latkes and supply all the fixings for a tasty and traditional celebration.

Also in December, our Brotherhood & Sisterhood will continue our Christmas Mitzvah program with hospital info desk staffing and lunch platters to the Manchester and Bedford PD and FD. Chair Denis Paiste along with Emeritus Chairs Sol & Linda Rockenmacher are working on the details, a truly kind and generous act of community support for our Christian friends and neighbors. This long-standing act of goodwill is something we

can all be proud of. Volunteers will be coordinated over the coming weeks and at the Brotherhood and Sisterhood meetings the first week in December.

As you can see, the TAY Brotherhood is keeping busy!

The balance of our TAY Brotherhood

Calendar follows, please join us as often as you like:

TAY BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

- **Chanukah Party** – Dec. 10, after morning Hebrew School with Kugel the Klown
- **Christmas Mitzvah Program** – Sunday & Monday, Dec. 24-25
- **Brotherhood Breakfast** – January or February Sunday morning (date TBD)
- **Purim Party** March 24
- **May 18 Event** – *Deli Night/Rabbi 20th Anniversary party*
- **Memorial Day Service** at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery – Monday May 27, 2024
- **Brotherhood Annual Meeting & BBQ** – June 4, 2024
- **Brotherhood-Sisterhood Service** – Friday, June 7 or 14, 2024

If you would like to join our Brotherhood, please email me at memkgranoff@comcast.net and I will be happy to email you the signup forms. Please join me in praying that a true and lasting shalom will come to Israel and her neighbors, and soon. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and wishing you and yours a peaceful and happy Chanukah.

Jeanne Shaheen

U.S. SENATOR



Best wishes of health, happiness, and peace this holiday season!

Paid for by Shaheen for Senate



PLANNED GIVING

Secure the future of our Jewish community

As you envision the future of the Jewish community that means so much to you, consider creating a planned gift with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire that will touch the lives of generations to come.

ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

By making a planned gift to a JFNH endowment fund, you can ensure that your generosity and vision will have an impact that extends far beyond your lifetime. Endowment funds that were established decades ago are still providing important support to our community today. At JFNH, we have the knowledge and expertise to help you design a planned gift that meets your needs while also endowing your personal vision for the future.

- **Unrestricted Endowment.** A gift to JFNH's Unrestricted Endowment will support the full spectrum of initiatives and programs essential to the future of our Jewish community.
- **Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE).** You can create an endowment to perpetuate your Annual Campaign gift. This is a wonderful way to sustain your lifelong investment in the community you have helped build.
- **Restricted Endowment.** Our planned giving professionals will work with you to craft a gift that supports the work of a valued partner organization or an area of particular interest to you, such as caring for the most vulnerable, engaging people of all ages in Jewish learning, and supporting Israel.

WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

- **Bequests:** A bequest through your will, trust, or retirement account is an easy way to create an endowment. We will work with you and your advisor to create a gift that clearly reflects and honors your intentions.
- **Retirement Plan Assets:** You may designate JFNH as a beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan such as an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b). To do so, simply contact your plan administrator and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form. By naming JFNH as a beneficiary, you may avoid significant and often unanticipated estate and income taxes that would otherwise be paid by your heirs.
- **Life Income Gifts:** A Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust can provide an immediate tax deduction and lifetime income for one or more beneficiaries. After the death of the last beneficiary, the remainder becomes part of an endowment fund to be used in accordance with your wishes.
- **Life Insurance:** You may purchase a life insurance policy that names JFNH as both owner and beneficiary. After your passing, JFNH will redeem the policy and the proceeds will support JFNH's endowment.

LEARN MORE:

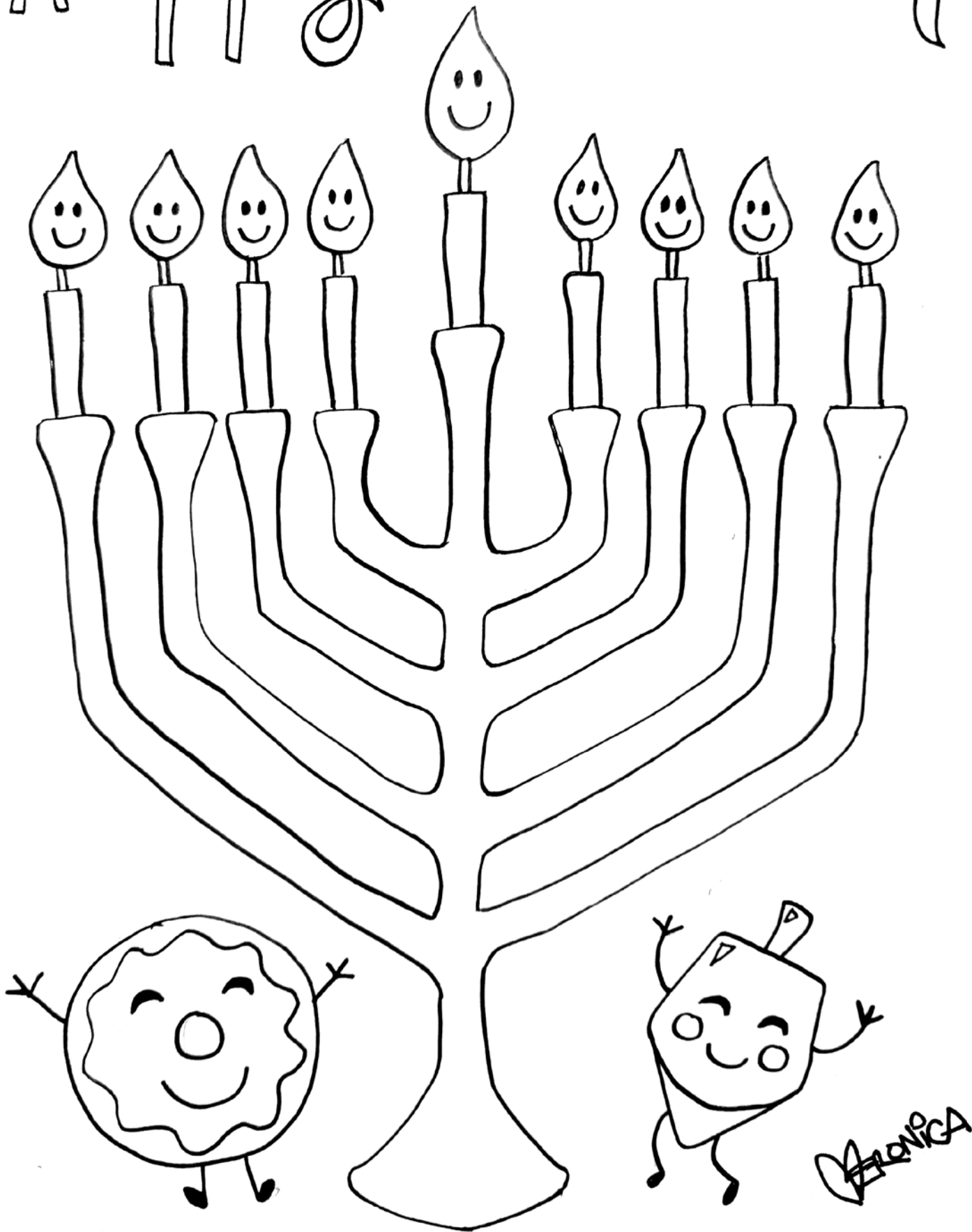
Contact Foundation Chair Julia Preis through the JFNH Office at 603-627-7679



THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

Kids' Corner Coloring Page

Happy Hanukkah



Veronica Ava Conley, ©2023

2024 Film Club Preliminary Line-Up

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

After the success of our *Yentl* program in August, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is excited to announce the launch of a Film Club to allow our audience members to engage in the very best movies throughout the calendar year. We know how much folks love what our Festival offers, so we have decided to offer additional titles behind our annual spring events. Some programs will be free and some will have a small charge.

We plan to show four films a year in a variety of formats and covering wide genres within the realm of Jewish cinema. Some movies will be screened in person and others on your own time via a streaming platform. Our events will be in January, March, July, and October.

All club members will get early access to ticket sales for the 16th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. Our spring festival runs from April 4 - April 14 plus a bonus week of virtual screenings.

We will begin on Sunday, January 21 with the new Helen Mirren film *Golda*, which was released in August and is now available to rent on Amazon Prime and several other streamers. We ask that participants screen the film on their own time prior to 3 PM on the 21st, at which time we will have a Zoom post-discussion that is free and virtual only. The Jewish

Federation's Israel Engagement and Education Committee will co-sponsor and co-moderate this event. If you have not yet seen *Golda*, this month's edition of *The Reporter* features my review!

On Sunday, March 3, we plan on showing a classic comedy in-person with a location to be determined. The February edition of *The Reporter* will have finalized information and details on this event, but we hope you will save the date in the meantime! Our plan is for this March film to connect in some way to one of the major films we will be screening in April, which is why you'll have to wait for more information as we finalize details!

Dates for July and October will also be forthcoming. We recognize that there is an appetite for both virtual and in-person options, as well as new films and classics, which will reflect in our planning for the rest of the calendar year. We hope that folks will appreciate our attempt to cover a wide array of genres as they consider joining the Film Club using the QR code included with this article.

Stay tuned for more information on the March event and the 2024 Film Festival in future editions of *The Reporter*. In the meantime, we hope you will register for the January 21 Zoom discussion about *Golda*, sure to give folks much pause given the current war in Israel and the parallels being made to 1974. See flyer to register!



Do you live in Keene, Laconia, Bethlehem, Hanover, or another NH community and want to help produce the Jewish Reporter?

We are looking for people all over the state who are interested in writing about their local Jewish community.

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org



Be part of the The 16th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival April 4 –14, 2024

Major Event Sponsor
\$5,000

Honorary Chair
\$3,000

Executive Producer
\$1,800

Producer
\$1,000

Film Star
\$750

Film Festival Director
\$500

Screenwriter
\$250 to \$499

Friend of Festival
\$10 to \$249

Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH

JFNH offers its Film Festival Sponsors a wide array of benefits to this multi-access event:

- The opportunity to connect with the statewide Jewish community and general public.
- Sponsors receive broad exposure in a multitude of print, online and broadcast media channels.
- Introduce your business to the NH statewide Jewish community during the largest Jewish cultural event of the year.
- Reach an established and significant demographic of over 3,200 homes and a statewide filmgoing audience.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this highly anticipated cultural event.

For details, e-mail filmfest@jewishnh.org
or go to our website www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com
or www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com/sponsor



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Book Review

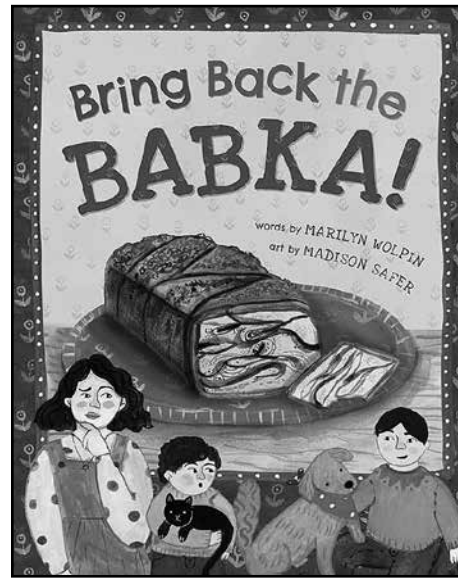
Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Bring Back the Babka and The Jake Show

The holidays are here once again, and it is a great time to gift your family and friends with books to read through the cold snowy winter months. Here are some of the new books I think would be perfect this holiday season.

Bring Back the Babka, words by Marilyn Wolpin and art by Madison Safer, is a sweet picture book about a missing babka. As two young boys go through the neighborhood asking if anyone has seen the babka their mother baked for dessert, they gather other delicious foods for a Shabbat dinner and bring home these friends to share the meal. At the end there is a babka recipe written by New Hampshire baker Cheryl Holbert, who owns Nomad Bakery in Derry. It is an added treat that will warm your kitchen with the warm scent of cinnamon on a cold day.

The Jake Show, written by Joshua S. Levy, is a great middle school book that kids can relate to if they feel they are different in any way. Fitting in with your family and friends can be complicated: starting at a new school is always difficult, and switching to a new school mid-year is even harder. In the book, Jake knows because he has changed schools five times since his parent's divorce. Jake imagines he is living in a television sitcom and enjoying the current episode until the show is canceled. Indeed, Jake explains his entire life this way, saying how in the "original series," he and his parents celebrated Jewish holidays and enjoyed Shabbat dinners, but also watched TV together after dinner. Then his parents divorced, and now life is like



a TV spin-off rather than the original program everybody loved.

When his new friends, Caleb and Te-hilla, invite him to join them for the summer at Camp Gershoni, they help him create a series of lies that will convince both sets of parents to sign him up for camp. The web of lies keeps growing, and finally will catch up with him—like a television car chase. The book offers a lesson in telling the truth and being true to yourself.

Joshua S. Levy is the author of several middle grade novels, including *The Jake Show* and *Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop*. Born and raised in Florida, Josh now lives with his family in New Jersey, where he also practices as a lawyer.

And for the adults, here is a suggestion: *One for Each Night: The Greatest Chanukah Stories of All Time*, is a collection of stories by some of the greatest Jewish authors of our time. Sholom Aleichem, Elie Wiesel, S. Y. Agnon, I. L. Peretz, Theodor Herzl, Emma Lazar, Chaim Potok, and Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, are just some of the fabulous authors who have contributed stories to this collection. This anthology brings the reader both thoughtful and humorous stories that share the way Chanukah is celebrated around the world. The book looks at the meaning of Chanukah and how it fits into a world that is not always welcoming to the Jewish people.

Advertise in our Business & Professional Services Directory.



Call JFNH office at 603-627-7679
or contact our sales rep.

Michelle Harrison
(603) 437-0167
RunFree94@yahoo.com



NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

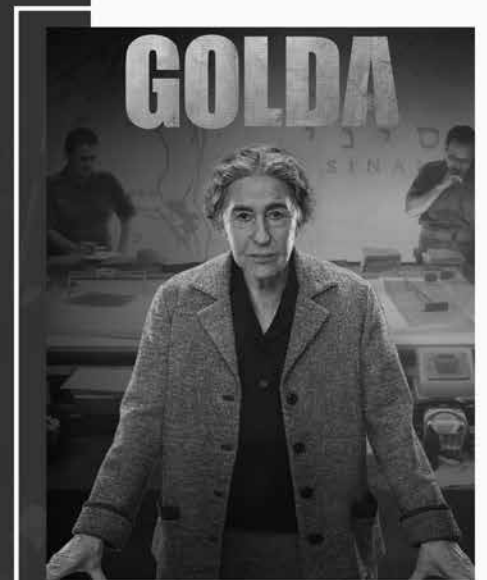
MOVIE CLUB

2023 FILM GOLDA
STARRING HELEN MIRREN

Post Film Discussion
via Zoom Only

SUNDAY
JAN 21, 2024

Join us on Zoom as we
discuss both the film and
history of the Yom Kippur
War. Film can be viewed on
Paramount +, Apple TV, and
Amazon Prime. discussion.



603-627-7679



<https://bit.ly/NHMovieClubGolda>



info@jewishnh.org



Movie Review

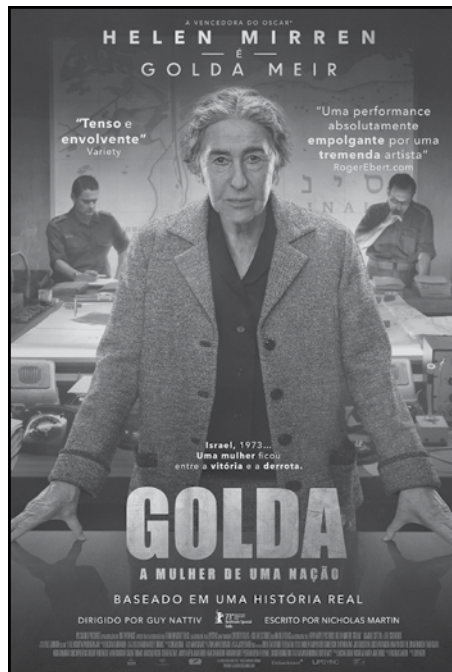
Reviewed by Zach Camenker,

NH JFF Steering Committee

2023's 'Golda' and other films about Israeli Prime Ministers

There will be a Zoom discussion about the 2023 film *Golda* on Sunday, January 21 at 3 PM. Ironically, it is a timely piece not only because its release surrounds the 50th Anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, but also because of the current war in Israel. Now available to stream on Amazon Prime, Apple, and several other platforms, the film has gained much attention over the last several months.

I am as big a fan of Helen Mirren as any. For decades, she has delighted audiences in so many memorable roles, and is quite the legend of the stage and screen. Her portrayal of Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974, has added another feather to her cap in the areas of range and versatility. She is absolutely spectacular as Meir, a pivotal force in Israeli politics and a deeply layered human.



Focusing on the end of her tenure as Prime Minister, Israel's fourth in its quarter-century of independence, the film does both a service and disservice to Meir in my opinion. The fact that it was made at all, especially at such a challenging time for Israel and the Middle East, is a service to Meir's legacy. Additionally, the way in which it paints Meir's challenges surrounding the Yom Kippur War in 1973 is seemingly realistic and very focused. That said, the choppy script and lack of focus on other aspects of Meir leave a lot to be desired. Sure, the film is only one hour and 40 minutes, and you can only do so much, but for those unfamiliar with Meir as a leader or the events depicted, the plot leaves much to be desired at times. It fails to examine how Meir rose to power and the complicated parts of her leadership, as well as others' views of her.

Met with her own share of controversy for wearing prosthetic make-up and not being Jewish herself, Helen Mirren does not have an easy job but does indeed rise to the occasion. Throughout, she shines in her ability to transform into the role—capturing the deep emotional toll, the reliance on her government amidst turmoil, and endless chain smoking which define Golda Meir as a deeply fascinating character. As I alluded to, I wish that we were able to see a bit of the backstory as to how Meir rose to power and shattered the glass ceiling as a woman in Israeli politics, but perhaps that is a story for another film.

Despite the plot issues and lack of depth that come with parts of the movie, it is quite interesting and well done. Mirren is supported by a solid cast, among which American actor Liev Schreiber and legendary Israeli actor Lior Ashkenazi are the standouts. Schreiber's portrayal of Henry Kissinger is fascinating, leaving the audience with an intriguing interpretation of the special bond between the US and Israel. Ashkenazi's

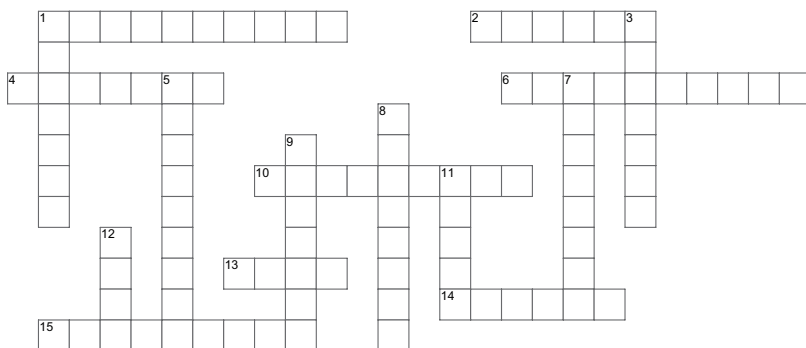
Dado Elazar, Chief of Staff for the Israel Defense Force, is a character with much depth in a film that frankly lacks it at times. I encourage everyone to see this film, especially if you are looking to educate yourself on Israeli history in any way. It will certainly leave you thinking, but for many of us who always seek to know more, it is not enough.

On that note, I highly recommend the 2019 documentary, also called *Golda*, which screened at the 2021 NH Jewish Film Festival. Available on Chai Flicks, a streaming service devoted to Jewish content, it is a remarkable piece about the dramatic career of Golda Meir. Interviewed for Israeli TV not long before her death, the film focuses intently on her surprising rise to power, her downfalls as a leader, and how many viewed her final year in office so negatively as she pleaded for the positives of her premiership. It helps a lot in picking up some of the loose pieces with the dramatized film version with Mirren.

You can also catch several other great documentaries on Chai Flicks about other prime ministers, many of which also have Q&A videos with directors and filmmakers available. Finally, I must highly recommend the film *Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin*, which you can rent on Amazon Prime. Screened at our 2022 Festival, it follows Meir's successor Menachem Begin, who was instrumental in the signing of the Camp David Accords alongside US President Jimmy Carter and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Powerful, detailed, and informative, it is a good companion to the two Meir films as it examines the immediate years following her tenure.

All of these films remind audiences that Israel remains a young nation that has endured much hardship while persevering in spite of it. As "Hatikvah," the state's National Anthem, reminds us, there is always hope.

Chanukah Crossword



ACROSS

- The Hebrew word for "_____ " is "Hanukkah".
- Potato pancakes.
- Name of the candelabrum used for Hanukkah.
- Doughnuts filled with jelly.
- Jewish rebel warriors who took control of Judea from the Seleucid Empire.
- Money or chocolate coins given to Jewish children on the festival of Hanukkah.
- Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Second _____ in Jerusalem.
- Are said before or after the menorah is lit.

DOWN

- Four-sided spinning top played with during Hanukkah.
- Used to lit all the candles.
- Ordered to place a Zeus statue at the Temple.
- A day or period of celebration, typically a religious commemoration.
- Another common spelling of the word Hanukkah.
- Lighted each day of Hanukkah.
- Hanukkah is celebrated for how many days?
- The candelabrum used for Hanukkah holds how many candles?

MACCABEES	DREIDEL	DEDICATION	NINE
CHANUKAH	SHAMASH	ANTIOCHUS	LATKES
GELT	MENORAH	EIGHT	CANDLES
FESTIVAL	TEMPLE	BLESSINGS	SUFGANIYOT

Free Printable Crossword

www.AllFreePrintable.com

Answers on page 28

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Jewish Journeys

Israel Experience

By Noah Aframe, Hopkinton NH

My summer trip to Israel was a life-changing experience and an absolute blast. In July, I spent three weeks with a program called JCC Maccabi, which is a teen version of the Maccabi Games. It is an Olympic-style Jewish sports competition made up of teens from across the United States and many other countries. After the sports, JCC Maccabi leads a bus tour throughout the country, including visits to Tel Aviv, Masada, Jerusalem, and much more.

The games were played in Haifa, a city in the northern part of Israel. At the games, I played on a basketball team made up of kids from Florida, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Our team was competitive, winning three games in the pool with only one defeat. We advanced to the playoffs win-

ning the first game, but ultimately falling to Greater Washington DC in a hard-fought, close game. While the actual sports were extremely fun and competitive, the best part was being around so many likeminded Jewish teens. I quickly made lots of friends from so many places. It's so amazing that, while we had so much geographic diversity, our Judaism brought us a close bond almost immediately. By the time we were ready to leave the dorms at Haifa on the bus tour, I felt like these kids had been friends for years, not a few days.

As the thousand teens set off, the buses took different routes to explore the beautiful country of Israel. My bus went first to Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is the best city in the world. Everything that makes up Tel Aviv is perfect — the people, the food, the beach, and the weather can't be surpassed. In addition to the beach, we ex-

plored the Old City of Jaffa, learning that this was where David Ben-Gurion came ashore to eventually establish the state of Israel. We also explored the vibrant nightlife of Tel Aviv.

Our next stop was spending a night in a Bedouin tent in the desert. All thousand of the teens met up to sleep underneath the beautiful stars of the desert. My close friend and I were up well past midnight when we heard, in the distance a loud shofar blast: for a moment, I felt like I was living thousands of years ago. The next morning, we hiked Masada at sunrise. This is by far one of the most spectacular sites you will ever see. There are no words to adequately describe the beauty of the sunrise.

After a short visit to Tiberias, we headed to the religious center of the world, Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, we saw the whole city shut down for Shabbos, and

we went and prayed at the Western Wall. We later trekked through the tunnels under King David's City.

However, the highlight of Jerusalem was seeing the protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, based on his bill to change the judicial system of Israel. I saw thousands of people in the streets peacefully protesting for democracy. You could sense the passion people have for Israel.

I had been to Israel the year before with my family, which was incredible. It made me want to go back. But getting to play basketball and traveling with so many amazing kids was something I'll never forget. I am hoping to go back to do nine weeks in Israel for high school this Spring! Thank you so much to the Federation for the generous support that helped make this amazing trip to Israel possible.

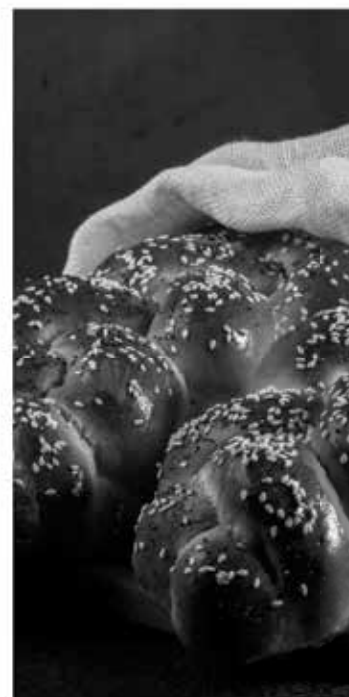
Happy Chanukah!

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Where We Stand as Jews

By Jeff Weiss

In 2023, we can all deeply understand, all-too viscerally, what it meant for our ancestors to experience and endure the horrors of antisemitism. As a survivor's son, whose father survived Auschwitz, Bergen Beslen, and Melk, I can attest that I had always thought I had somewhat of an appreciation of what my father and family went through—I absorbed so much of my father's words—but I truly cannot even begin to fathom the utter horror and isolation of what it must have been like to be targeted for a Nazi camp of hell, where death was the final escape.

We've been lucky for the past 80 years. Crazy Jew hating has been on vacation. While antisemitism still manifested it-

self into world society, it lay dormant like the Ebola virus, only to rise again in a special virulent strain. The hatred of Jews is now on full display. This time, calls for Jewish genocide, calls for "from the river to the sea," are no longer just catcalls from white supremacy groups. These death chants are from your neighbors, your friends (you thought they were different?). The utter silence after 1,400 innocents were slaughtered, 240 taken hostage – it is a wakeup call after 80 years of antisemitic slumber. We've seen this before, from the Greeks and Romans to the Turks and Assyrians. But this time it is the 2023 social media version, where facts are as supercilious as flat earth conspiracists. The murder of 1,400 people blamed on the victims? Even Hitler could not have imagined

such a sinister plot.

What to Do

If Jewish history tells us anything, it's that it is time to embrace your Jewishness and summon the strength of our history, and of our ancestors. It is a time to be vigilant and aware. It's also a time to check in on your Jewish friends and family. The power of words, the outright concern for your people, goes a long way now. So, will we get through this? What can we do? What can Israel do? What can the United States do?

An Idea for Israel

First, Israel does have a unique opportunity to help the people of Gaza and change international opinion in a way that the world has not seen since the 1940s. Back then, after Germany had lost the war, the United States was fearful that the Germans would revert back to their old ways. With the country decimated after the Allied bombings, their economy in ruins, George Marshall (the general and secretary of state) came up with a plan: rebuild Germany with Allied money. A rebuilt, robust Germany certainly would not revert to their old ways.

And you know what? George Marshall was right. Now is the time for Israel to announce their own Marshall plan (with the US and other Israel-supporting na-

tions). Now is the time for Israel to make the boldest of statements. It should plan to rebuild Gaza and reshape the Middle East's future. The underlying conditions would mean an unconditional recognition of the Jewish state, defined borders, no weaponization, bilateral trade, and diplomacy. Basically, a recipe for peace!

And the United States?

Well, back in the 1930s and 1940s, the US government spent a lot of time and money educating the public about the Nazis and the war effort. They needed to get "buy-in" from the public. Now we'd call them infomercials.

We must compete with and attack the fake and inaccurate information being sprouted on social media. The United States must blast social media with real, true facts regarding Israel, the Middle East, and the history thereof. A lot of work needs to be done to educate the vast segment of the population that, to this day, barely recognizes that the Holocaust was a thing. Changing the world is the ultimate challenge, when ignorance and hatred are spewed by a culture laden with cancerous ideas. We are Jewish. We are human. And together, we can make this change.

Jeff Weiss lives in Bedford, NH.

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Hadassah Responds to the Crisis in Israel

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah participated in Hadassah's Walk for Israel and Women's Health at Brandeis University's indoor track, raising funds for Hadassah's Heal Israel Now Campaign. Everyone enjoyed being together in person, as a Hadassah community. Over 200 people registered for the walk and almost \$80,000 was raised. Two choirs, children and adults from Temple Emanuel in Newton performed. After a short stretching exercise, a shofar was blown and the walk began. Snacks and water were distributed. There were tables set up for facepainting and temporary tattoos, and fresh cotton candy was enjoyed. A fun time was had by all.

This has been the most difficult period in Israel's history. The war is felt by all of us. We are all so heartbroken and very upset over the unprecedented situation in Israel. Hadassah is here for Israel, helping

Israel heal. In terms of personnel, Hadassah has pulled together full teams in all critical areas. More than 70 medical staff members were called into reserve duty, but unfortunately, while Israel is used to terror attacks, nothing on par with what is occurring now. Hadassah knows how to operate under challenging conditions both literally and psychologically.

Thanks to incoming donations for the Heal Israel Now Campaign, Hadassah built two state-of-the-art secure underground emergency facilities in five days and increased emergency and ICU treatment capacity by 250 beds. There was no disruption in patient care, despite over 300 Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) employees being called into IDF reserve duty. Every HMO facility is open and 65 of HMO's department heads are on site. Every ward is currently fully staffed.

Both Hadassah hospitals are located a short helicopter ride away from the Gaza

border and they are equipped with helipads for emergency transport.

As a major Level-1 trauma center and the only one in Jerusalem, Hadassah is receiving some of the most seriously wounded patients, civilians, and soldiers. These include people with traumatic brain injuries, horrible shrapnel damage, and patients with severed limbs. They have been receiving patients from hospitals and triage centers from places across the country.

Hadassah is a global leader in treating psychological stress and trauma. They set up both pediatric and adult psychiatric ER services for traumatized patients and are supporting hundreds of evacuated family members. Many citizens are suffering from anxiety attacks.

Hadassah Youth Aliyah Villages are a safe and welcoming environment. They receive evacuees and provide them with shelter and medical care. Additional bomb shelters have been put in place for


the students' protection. Social workers and staff trained in trauma care are helping them cope with the devastation that people in crisis can experience. This care is provided to students, staff, and their families.

Your help is needed. Speak out for the hostages. Hamas kidnapped nearly 200 women, children, elderly and disabled individuals, Israelis, and American citizens and others. Ask your lawmakers to stand with Israel and publicly call on Hamas to release all hostages immediately.

Also, thank President Biden for prohibiting antisemitism in federally funded programs and ask him to fully implement the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

Let us all pray for peace for the land of Israel. Am Yisrael Chai!

For additional Hadassah information, contact michele.bank@gmail.com.



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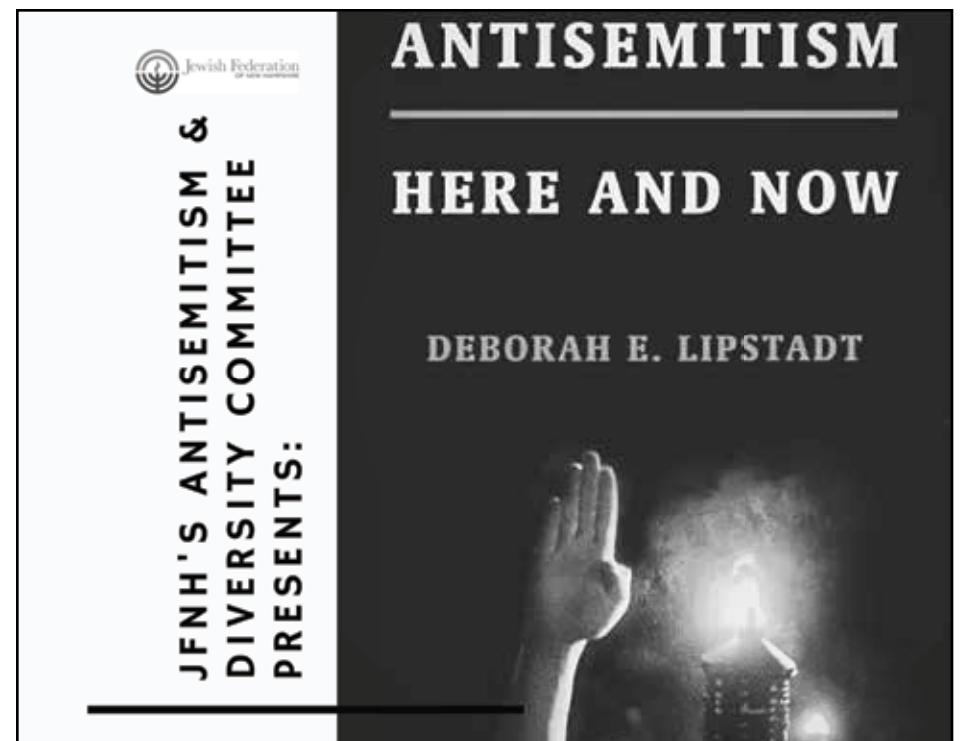
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Israel’s Ongoing Support for the Developing Countries of Africa

By Rabbi Gary Atkins

For over 65 years, Israel has provided agricultural and technical aid to developing countries, especially in the continent of Africa. This often behind-the-scenes work is an act of *tikkun olam* that rarely gets the publicity it deserves. However, it has helped to make friends for Israel in many of these nations.

An article earlier this year in Israel 21c presented some of the following information: “Fatima Tirap, adviser to the president of Chad, came to Israel for the first time in March 2023 as part of an 11-coun-



try African delegation learning about agricultural technologies and especially precision irrigation. She was quoted as saying, ‘Israel is very good in this sector. Chad is huge, but we have zero technology. Israeli agritech will completely change the game and the economy. We had an incredible time seeing how agriculture is done in the Negev. For a young Sahelian Chadian

woman, it was an eye-opener.’ Chad recently opened an embassy in Tel Aviv. ‘We are proud of our good relationship with Israel. I kept telling the team that the project [in agritech] will be the first baby of the marriage of Israel and Chad.’”

Indeed, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation shares Israeli inventions, techniques, and best practices with 43 African countries and sends emergency aid to others that don’t yet have diplomatic relations with Israel. Tirap’s experience was made possible by the Beer Sheva-based DeserTech Climate Technologies Community.

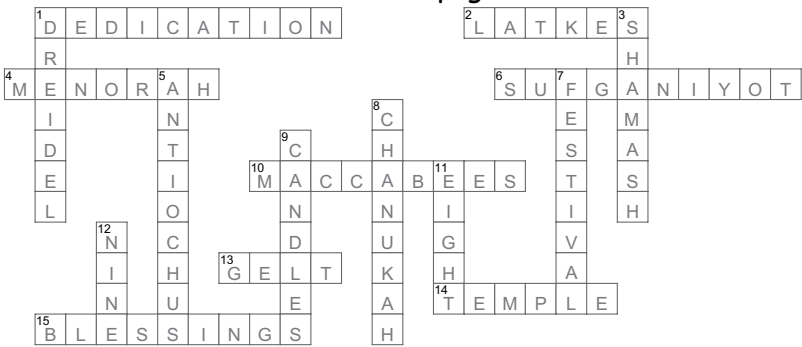
Gohar Barak, international ecosystem development manager of DeserTech, said, “The Israeli ecosystem has a lot of solutions and operates globally but not necessarily in Africa because until now we didn’t understand all their needs and problems. For example, a life-or-death issue in rural agriculture in the Great Green Wall corridor is post-harvest loss, which reaches 70-to-80% in some parts of northern Nigeria. We matched them with Natural Offset Farming, an Israeli company that develops a cooling system to cool

down produce until it’s taken to market. Some of the countries that have participated do not have relations with Israel.”

From my teaching *brit milah*, I learned that a very different area of assistance has been in helping African countries dealing with AIDS. A decade ago, Israel had a major part in developing the WHO program “Operation Abraham” to circumcise 20 million African men. The Jerusalem Post reported that 14 targeted countries in Africa have adopted the WHO program. The program was estimated to save more than 3.4 million people from being infected as well as \$16.5 billion that would have been needed to cope with disease. And in 2016, Israel developed a low-tech, low-cost device called ‘Prepex,’ described as “the first and so far only non-surgical male circumcision device; requiring no injected anesthesia, no surgery, no sterile settings.” At that time there were nearly 30 million people suffering from HIV, and research has determined that circumcision reduces the risk of heterosexually acquired HIV infection by men by approximately 60%.

How many lives have been saved in Africa by Israel’s sharing of its knowledge!

Chanukah Crossword Answers from page 24



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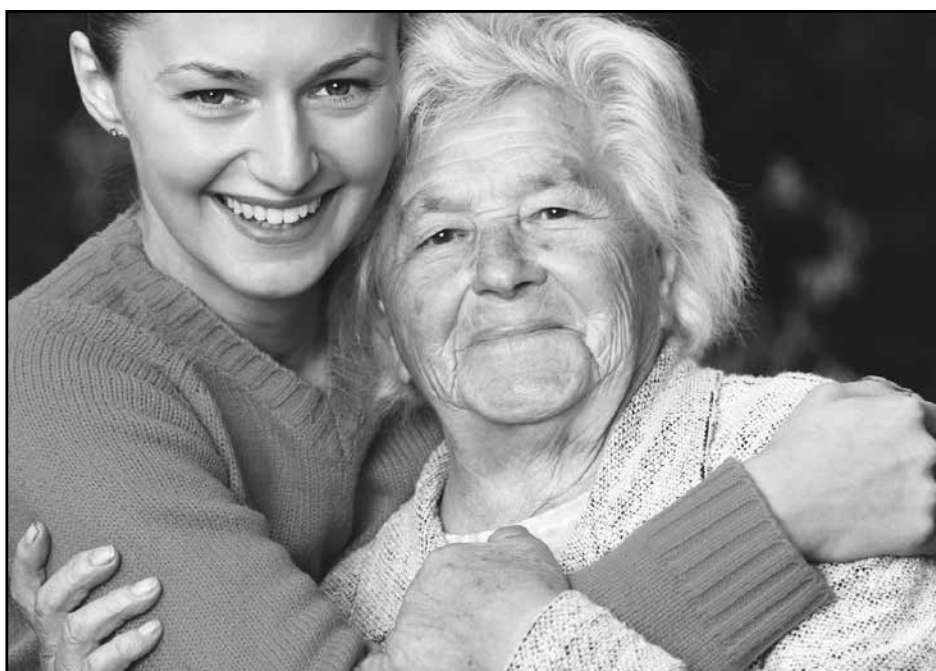
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